

# **DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

## **DISTRICT I**

April 5, 2004

7:00 p.m.

*Atwater Community Center, 2755 E. 19<sup>th</sup>, Wichita, Kansas 67214*

### **Members Present**

Rickie Coleman\*  
Gerald Domitrovic  
Treatha Brown-Foster  
Lacey Ganther\*  
Lois Tully-Gerber  
Lori Lawrence  
Debra K. Miller  
Debby Moore  
Sharon Myers\*  
Steve Roberts\*  
James Thompson  
Ken Woodard

### **Members Absent**

Councilmember Brewer  
Celina Porter Robinson

### **Guest List**

Dorothy Nave, 1802 Looman  
Renee Cooper, 1118 S. Longford  
Gayle Paige, 1604 Fairmount  
Carl Ligon, 1736 NE Parkway

### **Staff Present**

Viradena Gilkey, Neighborhood Assistant  
Officer Seang, WPD  
Donna Goltry, MAPD  
Paul Gunzelman, Traffic Engineering

\*Denotes District Advisory Board Alternates

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

### **Call to Order**

**Pro-tem James Thompson** called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and welcomed the guest.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Steve Roberts** referenced page 3 and asked that her wording be corrected to say that they put in an application two years ago for bus shelters and have yet to receive a response. **Thompson (Porter Robinson)** motion to approve DAB I minutes as amended. Motion carried (8-0).

### **Approval of Agenda**

**Moore (Thompson)** made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (8-0).

## **Public Agenda**

### **1. Scheduled items**

No items submitted

### **2. Off-agenda items**

No items submitted

### **Staff Reports**

#### **3. Police Report**

**Officer Seang** reported the following from Patrol North: 1) they are working with the Hispanic leaders on the Cinco De Mayo Celebration; 2) the officers are attending neighborhood association meetings and encouraging citizens to call 911 for assistance. Citizens can ask for phone contact only when calling in suspicious activity; 3) working with YMCA on domestic violence (shelter, counseling, etc.); 4) several recent drive-by shootings, but no victims; 5) Officer Jones assisted with the Black Adoption and Foster Care Fair on April 3<sup>rd</sup> in partnership with Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL), Atwater NCH and KU School of Medicine; 6) they are working with neighborhoods on neighborhood cleanups; and 7) with summer approaching, the officers will flex their schedules to work nights and weekends and will be on bikes more.

*(Officer Seang's response in italics)*

**Moore** asked how aggressively is WPD enforcing the noise ordinance and do WPD pay attention to the noise level from cars? *Citations can only be issued if we catch the violators in the act. Once that occurs, we can give a warning or issue a citation. The second time, a citation is automatically issued. Yes, we do pay attention to the noise level in vehicles. If we can hear it within 50 feet, it is a violation and a ticket is issued.*

**Brown-Foster** asked how many noise violation tickets have been issued? *Not sure, but we are issuing tickets.* Brown-Foster continued by saying that citizens do not want police coming to their door. This is still a problem. Can the 911 staff be trained? *We are currently addressing this issue.*

The board received and filed the report.

### **Traffic Engineering**

#### **4. New School Pedestrian Signal Project for the Linwood and Jackson Elementary Schools**

**Paul Gunzelman, Public Works**, presented the proposed pedestrian signal project for Linwood and Jackson Elementary Schools. He reported that Traffic Engineering staff has worked with the United School District 259 staff to construct traffic and pedestrian improvements for their new Jackson and Lynnwood Elementary schools located at the Woodlawn/29th and Hydraulic/Osie intersections, respectively. These elementary schools will open next fall and staff is concerned that improvements need to be in place at that time. Through staff's discussion with USD 259, it was agreed that new signalized pedestrian crosswalks are needed on Woodlawn (Jackson Elementary School) and Hydraulic (Lynnwood) school since boundaries extend across these major arterial streets. To accommodate school crossings at these locations, it was determined that mid-block signalized crosswalks should be located on Woodlawn south of Pepperwood, and on Hydraulic south of Pawnee. These mid-block crossing locations would provide direct route for school children walking to these schools. Mid-block signalized crosswalk locations are much safer for children than ones at signalized intersections due to the absence of turning traffic that conflicts with children's crossing. To also ensure safety, these school signals will be accompanied with flashing "20 mph" school speed limits in advance to the locations to alert motorists of the school crossing.

The estimated project cost is \$ 80,000. Funding for the project is expected to be covered by savings in the 2004 Traffic Signal CIP Program.

*(Paul Gunzelman's response in italic)*

**Tully-Gerber** asked about \$80,000 cost for two traffic lights and if that cost is reasonable? *This is the typical cost. The price of steel has gone up considerably. This price is reasonable as it includes wheelchair ramps as well.* **Woodard** asked if the cost included flashing lights? *Yes. Signals will be installed to remind motorist of the crossing.*

**Brown Foster (Moore)** made a motion to recommend approval of the New School Pedestrian Signal Project for Linwood and Jackson Elementary Schools. Motion carried 8-0.

## **Planning**

### **5. CON2004-00008**

**Donna Goltry, MAPD**, explained the proposed use for the transitional home, Eden's Promise, which will be limited to 10 girls plus three rotating staff residents and other ancillary office staff. This proposed group residence represents an improvement to the deteriorating area and would be a special enhancement to help ensure future viability of the neighborhood. Ms. Goltry also explained the demographics of the surrounding properties, which are in conjunction with the request. The applicant agreed to develop the site in compliance with all federal, state, and local rules and regulations and has agreed to implement suggested external changes. A rod iron fence will be placed around the property for security purposes.

Ms. Goltry stated that only one resident expressed concern via a letter. Ms. Cannon's concerns were that she wanted the property kept only with one user (Eden's Promise) and she was also concerned with visitors frequenting the property – particularly young men.

The board was concerned with the following: 1) if staff and residents will remain on site 24 hours; 2) qualifications of the "staff mothers"; 3) visitation rules and regulations; 4) amount of time the girls will be allowed to remain in the residence home; 5) how the program will be marketed; 6) how the program will be funded; 7) rate of past successes; 8) follow-up of those served; 9) when will the facility open and what is the cost to residents; 10) will the girls do any refurbishing. Ms. Page responded to all of these concerns.

**The applicant, Gayle Page**, addressed the board and stated the following: This is a long-term foster care home for abused girls and would be the only facility of its kind in the state of Kansas. Teenage females, ages 13 – 18 years old, who are court appointed or private placement will be served. One of their main purposes is to provide a safe house for those who are abandoned and abused and are in need of placement. These girls will receive job training skills and information technology. Visitation would be limited to the parents and family members with no boy friends allowed.

Ms. Page further explained that there is a parent/child education component to breakdown recidivism. Parents must agree to the educational component or their child will not be accepted. Their goal is to educate and equip the young ladies for a career.

Eden's Promise currently have two licensed social workers on staff; and they have been in existence for three years and have served over 550 young women. Approximately 20% of the girls recommended by JIAC have "succeeded". Most of the drop out rate from the program was due to the inconsistencies in the home environment. They hope to open the facility by May 2004 with no cost to the girls.

Due to liability issues, the girls will not do any refurbishing. The goal is to fund the program totally through grants and community contributions. An Open House will take place on April 17, 2004.

**Carl Ligon, 1736 NE Parkway** asked the following questions: 1) what if there are girls who just play games; 2) how do you know when the girl(s) need help or are just a “problem child”; and 3) will they be made to do chores in the house?

Gayle Page responded that this is not a “quick fix” program. Those who are serious will have to spend significant time to remain in the program. There have been girls identified as a “problem child”. However, JDF is contacted to keep abreast of those who drop out. All of the girls will have to take ownership of the house and is expected to clean, do laundry, etc.

**Brown Foster (Moore)** made a motion to accept the recommendation of MAPD and support the Eden’s Promise project. Motion carried 8-0.

**Recommended Action: The DAB approved the request subject to staff conditions.**

### **Unfinished Business**

No items submitted

### **New Business**

No items submitted

### **Board Agenda**

#### **6. Updates, Issues, and Reports**

- a. **Treatha Brown Foster** reported that the NE Millair NA would meet on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m., Patrol North Substation. District Attorney Nola Foulston is the guest speaker.
- b. **Lois Tully-Gerber** reported on the Fireworks Taskforce and handed out the summary report and recommendations, which was put together by Intern Kelli Glassman. She complimented Kelli Glassman on her positive attitude and expertise in keeping the group informed.

Tully-Gerber stated that the committee is prepared to move forward on a media blitz for July 4<sup>th</sup>. The committee discovered that for less than \$1,000, the fireworks issue could be put to a non-binding vote in August 2004.

Lastly, their efforts have been strongly supported by City staff and others (fire department, law department, police department, EMS, commercial vendors and the media). Even though the group could not come to an agreement and was somewhat a nebulous organization, much was discussed and accomplished.

*(Tully-Gerber’s response in italics)*

**Treatha Brown Foster** asked why there were not more stats from cities in Kansas? *City staff did the review. It is not a complete review, just a comparison.*

*Their stats were based on the cities that responded.* **Moore** said that she wanted to officially thank Lois Tully-Gerber for all of her hard work on the committee.

- c. **Debby Moore** thanked the street sweeper department for cleaning up her street. She also reported that while she was down with broken ribs the past 30 days, she heard about a group of attorneys who had formed a group of chiropractors whose business was promoting chiropractic equipment to the public. There was a piece of equipment that only cost \$25, but people could be charged up to \$3500. The target group was those with long-term disability benefits. She cautioned people to be aware of this mishap.
- d. **Virdena Gilkey, NA**, announced a joint meeting for Districts 1 and 2 on Preserving the Railroad Corridor for Alternative Uses Meeting, Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup>; 7:00 p.m., City Council Chambers, 455 North Main. She encouraged the board members to attend.
- e. **James Thompson** reported that the District 1 Coalition Breakfast was a great meeting. He announced the next breakfast would be on May 1<sup>st</sup> at Cisro's and the next DAB 1 meeting would be on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The board received and filed the reports.

Being no further business, **Brown-Foster (Domitrovic)** made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 8-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Virdena Gilkey  
Neighborhood Assistant